IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3-4, 15-16, and 27-28; add new claims 30-44; and, amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of displaying a guard ring within an integrated circuit design having logic devices, said method comprising:

determining positions of said logic devices within said integrated circuit design;

incorporating said guard ring into said integrated circuit design; and

displaying said logic devices and said guard ring ~~graphically, semantically, or~~ symbolically in a single display, ~~wherein said displaying of said logic devices and said guard ring symbolically comprises~~ comprising displaying a parameterized symbol comprising displaying parameters, including ~~at least one of a type of circuit,~~ a type of said guard ring~~, and an efficiency of said guard ring~~.

2-4. (Canceled).

5. (Original) The method in claim 1, wherein said displaying of said logic devices and said guard ring graphically comprises illustrating relative positions of said logic devices and said guard ring.

6-12. (Canceled).

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13.   (Currently Amended) A method of displaying at least one guard ring within a hierarchical integrated circuit design having logic devices, said method comprising:

establishing positions of said logic devices within a portion of said hierarchical integrated circuit design;

incorporating said guard ring into said portion of said hierarchical integrated circuit design; and

displaying said portion of said integrated circuit design as a cell having a said guard ring within said hierarchical integrated circuit design, wherein said displaying of said portion of said integrated circuit design comprises symbolically displaying a parameterized symbol comprising displaying parameters, including at least one of a type of circuit, a type of said guard ring, and an efficiency of said guard ring.

14 -16. (Canceled).

17.   (Original) The method in claim 13, wherein said displaying of said portion of said integrated circuit design comprises graphically illustrating relative positions of said logic devices and said guard ring.

18-24. (Canceled).

25.   (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of

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displaying a guard ring within an integrated circuit design having logic devices, said method comprising:

determining positions of said logic devices within said integrated circuit design;

incorporating said guard ring into said integrated circuit design; and

displaying said logic devices and said guard ring ~~graphically, semantically, or~~ symbolically in a single display, ~~wherein said displaying of said logic devices and said guard ring symbolically comprises~~ comprising displaying a parameterized symbol comprising displaying parameters, including ~~at least one of a type of circuit,~~ a type of said guard ring, ~~and an efficiency of said guard ring~~.

26 - 28. (Canceled).

29.   (Original) The program storage device in claim 25, wherein said displaying of said logic devices and said guard ring graphically comprises illustrating relative positions of said logic devices and said guard ring.

30.   (New) The method in claim 1, further comprising displaying said logic devices and said guard ring graphically in a single display.

31.   (New) The method in claim 1, further comprising displaying said logic devices and said guard ring semantically in a single display.

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32.   (New) The method in claim 1, further comprising displaying said logic devices and said guard ring graphically and semantically in a single display.

33.   (New) The method in claim 1, wherein said displaying of said parameterized symbol comprises displaying said parameters including a type of circuit.

34.   (New) The method in claim 1, wherein said displaying of said parameterized symbol comprises displaying said parameters including an efficiency of said guard ring.

35.   (New) The method in claim 1, wherein said displaying of said parameterized symbol comprises displaying said parameters including a type of circuit and an efficiency of said guard ring.

36.   (New) The method in claim 13, wherein said displaying of said parameterized symbol comprises displaying said parameters including a type of circuit.

37.   (New) The method in claim 13, wherein said displaying of said parameterized symbol comprises displaying said parameters including an efficiency of said guard ring.

38.   (New) The method in claim 13, wherein said displaying of said parameterized symbol comprises displaying said parameters including a type of circuit and an efficiency of said guard ring.

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39.   (New) The program storage device in claim 25, further comprising displaying said logic devices and said guard ring graphically in a single display.

40.   (New) The program storage device in claim 25, further comprising displaying said logic devices and said guard ring semantically in a single display.

41.   (New) The program storage device in claim 25, further comprising displaying said logic devices and said guard ring graphically and semantically in a single display.

42.   (New) The program storage device in claim 25, wherein said displaying of said parameterized symbol comprises displaying said parameters including a type of circuit.

43.   (New) The program storage device in claim 25, wherein said displaying of said parameterized symbol comprises displaying said parameters including an efficiency of said guard ring.

44.   (New) The program storage device in claim 25, wherein said displaying of said parameterized symbol comprises displaying said parameters including a type of circuit and an efficiency of said guard ring.

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